



September 22nd, 2014

Via email

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition and our 95 partner organizations to draw your attention to a number of resolutions coming forward at the Union of BC Municipalities convention later this month that we believe are important to the rights and well-being of children and youth in BC and are deserving of your support. All of these resolutions are endorsed by the UBCM Resolutions Committee. The resolutions are:

Res #	Resolution title	From
B3	Resources to Support Sexually Exploited Children & Youth	Prince George
B12	Income Exemption for Child Support Payments	Maple Ridge
B31	Trades & Technology Skills Training	Delta
B39	\$10/day Child Care	Williams Lake
B40	Child Poverty	Delta
B41	Poverty Reduction	Prince Rupert

On the issue of child and family poverty, First Call is a founding member of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and have repeatedly endorsed the call for a comprehensive poverty reduction plan for BC, with legislated targets and timelines in our annual BC Child Poverty Report Card.

On the issue of the income exemption for child support payments, our coalition partners and allies have been active for several years in efforts to persuade the provincial government to stop clawing back these payments from single parents on income assistance. We do, however, urge the UBCM to amend Resolution B12 prior to adopting it to remove the proposed \$300 cap on the monthly exemption. We feel strongly that children should benefit from the full amount received for their support from the non-custodial parent. As the Shawn Bayes, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, stated so eloquently in a letter published in the Vancouver Sun, *"How our government can pick the pockets of B.C.'s poorest parents for money intended to support impoverished children is incomprehensible. This policy is wrong and we will continue to call for change."*

We are pleased to see that the 2013 UBCM convention endorsed the \$10/day Child Care Plan and note that First Call has done the same. With support for the Plan growing and the crisis for parents in finding affordable and accessible quality child care, this resolution's call for implementation of the Plan is timely.

First Call agrees that the issue of the sexual exploitation of children and youth in BC should be an urgent priority for provincial program funding, from prevention to enforcement and intervention.

On the issue of trades and technology skills training for BC youth, First Call urges all UBCM delegates to support the call for the needed investments in training facilities and programming.

There is one other resolution, B83 - Establishing a Youth Caucus, to which we draw your attention. While First Call is not familiar enough with the proposal to call for its endorsement, we very much appreciate the rationale and share the concern about the need to improve opportunities for youth to be meaningfully engaged in civic affairs and to have their views and needs considered.

Thank you for your consideration of First Call's views, and we wish all UBCM delegates a successful convention. We will watch with interest to see the conference decisions on these important resolutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne Montani". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrienne Montani,
Provincial Coordinator
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition
www.firstcallbc.org